

Information sheet for schools

? What is the Inclusion Ambassadors group?

The Inclusion Ambassadors is a national group of secondary school aged young people who have additional support needs. It's purpose is to share experiences of being a pupil with a support need in Scotland.

We welcome and support involvement from young people with a range of experiences and needs.

We encourage involvement of pupils from all local authority areas ensuring we have representation from all across Scotland and a clear picture of current experiences.

? What will they do?

Inclusion Ambassadors will share their experiences first with peers, as well as the team at Children in Scotland and Enquire. This will then inform policy and consultation responses or other calls for action. Inclusion Ambassadors may also be asked to meet with key stakeholders or contribute to events.

The group will be managed by Children in Scotland and Enquire – Scotland's national advice service for additional support for learning.

Click here for more information on the Inclusion Ambassadors.



! Involvement in the Inclusion Ambassadors group is free, and at no cost to the school or the local authority

? How can you help?

If you work at a Local Authority

We need your help to identify young people who may wish to join our group, and ensure that the opportunities are known to anyone else who may be eligible to participate.

We hope that you will:

- **Ensure the opportunity is known to all schools within your area**, particularly those who operate an ASL hub or specialised department
- **Share this information** with all the families and young people who may be eligible to participate, and actively encourage and support their involvement.

If you are a school

We need your help in identifying and communicating with pupils, and their family, who would be suitable to join the group – both during recruitment and delivery.

You can help support communication with potential and recruited Ambassadors.

We hope that you will:

- **Promote this opportunity** to eligible young people
- **Support successful pupils to take part**, including facilitating time out of class to attend meetings (approx 2-3 times per year)
- **Help keep group members and their families up to date** about meetings, developments and activity.



! What current and past members have to say about the group

Trust

Diversity

Every time I find out there's a meeting I always feel very happy and excited because I love coming to meetings and seeing everyone

I find everything really fun and exciting

A safe space

? Why should others get involved?

- "A big thing is having the ability to talk to people about issues. Before, I was bottling things up but now I feel more comfortable"
- "When I knew I was joining the IA, I felt nervous and excited but now I just love it because it's very fun"
- "What we talk about can help educate the school on how ASL should develop and how support can be developed. By supporting pupils to attend, schools are also developing the support they give to other pupils in their school."

Current Inclusion Ambassadors

We are looking for people who are:

- Aged 12-18 (of secondary school age)
- Accessing additional support for learning
- Willing to share their experience of education
- Keen to discuss improvements to provision, and how to make this happen.

There is no requirement to have experience of being involved in a project like this before – all we need is people who are enthusiastic and happy to work as a team.

Please get in touch to discuss potential members.

Meetings

Members of the group will be supported to attend each meeting with all necessary and reasonable adjustments made and support provided where possible. We would also encourage pupils to bring their own support staff or necessary equipment to the meeting to ensure they are able to participate fully.

Inclusion Ambassadors currently meet every month. Most of these take place online, via Teams, with at least two in person meetings over the course of the year

When meetings are held in person, Children in Scotland will cover the cost of travel for all families and young people participating, including any supporting adults.

What will the group do?

Building on key themes identified by previous Inclusion Ambassadors, workstreams may focus on:

- Sharing and highlighting their experiences with key decision-makers, such as the Scottish Government
- Developing guidance and practical resources
- Awareness raising and peer education programmes
- Rights-based work.

Involvement and support from your local area/school will ensure that your pupils who access additional support for learning have the ability to be included in improving provision nationwide.

Think you might know someone who might be interested?

Please get in touch and send the application on behalf of the young person you are putting forward by **27th June**.

We require: the name of the pupil, the contact details of their supporting adult (preferably a support assistant), the name of the school and brief information from the pupil on something they like to do in their spare time.

Contact David Yule, Children in Scotland

email: dyule@childreninscotland.org.uk

More information on Children in Scotland is available at childreninscotland.org.uk